

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for compression molding a plastic article, comprising:

a base;

a first actuator carried by the base and including a core,

a second actuator carried by the base and including a female mold section defining a portion of a mold cavity in which the plastic article is formed, said core being at least partially received in said female mold section,

at least one linear bearing associated with at least one of the first actuator and second actuator to guide said at least one of the first actuator and second actuator for linear reciprocation relative to the base, each linear bearing including a rail carried by one of the base and said at least one of the first actuator and second actuator and a block slidably received on the rail and carried by the other of the base and said at least one of the first actuator and second actuator that does not carry said rail, and

a plurality of balls carried by the block, wherein the rail includes a track in which the balls are partially received.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[2]] **1** wherein the balls are carried by the block so that at least some of the balls are always in contact with the rail.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim [[2]] **1** wherein the rail includes two opposed sides each having a track, and said balls are carried by the block so that a plurality of balls engage each of said two opposed sides of the track.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the balls are carried by the block so that each of said two opposed sides of the rail are always in contact with a plurality of balls.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein both the first actuator and second actuator move relative to the base, and at least one linear bearing is disposed between the base and each of the first actuator and second actuator.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein at least one linear bearing is disposed between the base and the first actuator, and at least one linear bearing is disposed between the base and the second actuator.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein two rails are attached to the base in the area of the first actuator, and at least two blocks are carried by the first actuator for linear reciprocation along the rails with at least one block associated with each rail.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8 wherein two blocks are carried by the first actuator for linear reciprocation along one of the rails and one block is carried by the first actuator for linear reciprocation along the other rail.

10. (Original) The apparatus of 9 wherein the base includes a turret driven for rotation about an axis and said first and second actuators are carried by the turret for rotation therewith with said rails being mounted on the turret so that the rails are circumferentially spaced apart and extend generally parallel to the axis of rotation of the turret with one rail leading the other with respect to the direction of rotation of the turret, said two blocks being associated with the leading rail, and said one block being associated with the other rail.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the leading rail is axially longer than the other rail.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein two rails are attached to the base in the area of the second actuator, and at least two blocks are carried by the second actuator for linear reciprocation along the rails with at least one block associated with each rail.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein two blocks are carried by the second actuator for linear reciprocation along one of the rails and one block is carried by the second actuator for linear reciprocation along the other rail.

14. (Original) The apparatus of 13 wherein the base includes a turret driven for

rotation about an axis and said first and second actuators are carried by the turret for rotation therewith with said rails being mounted on the turret so that the rails are circumferentially spaced apart and extend generally parallel to the axis of rotation of the turret with one rail leading the other with respect to the direction of rotation of the turret, said two blocks being associated with the leading rail and said other block being associated with the other rail.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the leading rail is axially longer than the other rail.

16-93. (Cancelled).